A DECLARATION OF THE Moſt Chriſtian King, SHEWING THE REASONS For Recalling his PLENIPOTENTIARIES FROM THE Treaty at Cologne.

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The most Christian Kings *Reasons, for Recalling his Ambassadors from* Cologne.

ALthough the late Attempt committed on the Person of *William* Prince of *Furstemberg*, Plenipotentiary for the Elector of *Cologne*, in the very City of *Cologne* it self, the Place appointed for the Treaty of Peace, hath been done by some of the Officers and Souldiers belonging to the Regiment of *Grana*, one of the Regiments of the Imperial Army; yet the King of *France* would not at first look upon the Emperor, as being the Author of so Odious an Action, his *Majesty* ever reflecting on himself, and knowing, that nothing in the World ought to be held so Sacred and Inviolable among Kings and Soveraigns, as the true and exact observation of their Word. He thought he should do too great an Injury to his Imperial *Majesty*, by believing him capable of violating by so horrid an Act, a Faith he had so solemnly given, not only to the whole Empire at the Diet of *Ratisbonne*, but even to all *Europe*, for the secure Neutrality of a Town, from whence all Christendome did expect a happy Calm.

It was in that Prospect, and for no other consideration, that his Most Christian *Majesty* did suspend his just Resentment of such an Attempt; being still willing to give the Emperor time to Declare, that it was done without his Order, gladly expecting to see the Chastisement he should inflict on the Offenders, to wash away the Blur they had made on his Reputation, by doing which, the Emperor would have made it appear to the World, that his Intention was not to infract the Publick Faith, nor hinder the present Negociation for Peace. For these Reasons, His *Majesty* forbore commanding his Ambassadors away from *Cologne*, though the Neutrality of that Town, so lately violated, afforded him ground lawful enough, to fear they could not remain there any longer with Safety. And indeed, that which His *Majesty* so justly feared, hath since prov'd but too true in the sequel, the same Security which was violated before on the Person of a Publick Minister belonging to a Prince Allied to His *Majesty*, was soon broken afresh on that of his own Ambassadors, in the same Place, their Liveries and other Equippages having been publickly Arrested, and a great and considerable Sum of Moneys belonging to His *Majesty*, seaz'd on, and detain'd forcibly, by Order from the Chief Commander of the said Regiment of *Grana*, the said Moneys being Loaded on one of their own Waggons. And all this done in a City, in which Freedom and Liberty is allow'd, common to all the World: having besides, caus'd an Express, sent by the Count *de Chamilly* to the said Ambassadors, to be both Arrested and Search't. In a word, *Cologne* which till then, had been Consecrated for the Publick Se-

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curity of all *Europe*, is by a monſtrous Change, become on a ſuddain, a moſt Bloody Theater, where on thoſe very Troops deſigned for the preſervation of the Neutrality of the Place, being by the Magiſtrates of the ſame, Sworn to keep and maintain it, have ſince exerciſed with Impunity, all the Outrages and Violences that both *Avarice* and Revenge can inſpire. Notwithſtanding all which, his moſt Chriſtian *Majeſty* hath hitherto forborn imputing the leaſt of thoſe Exorbitancies to the Emperors Orders, as being ſtill willing to perſwade himſelf, out of the Concern he hath for his Glory, that they were attempted without any Intent of His Imperial *Majeſty*. But now ſince the anſwer given at *Vienna* to the Miniſters of *Sweden*, makes it appear evidently, that the Forcible Stealing away of the ſaid Prince *William*, was really an Effect of the Emperors Order and expreſs Command, His *Majeſty* of *France* can no longer doubt but what hath been done ſince to his Miniſters at *Cologne*, hath been a following Conſequence, of the ſelf ſame Orders & Directions. His *Majeſty* therefore, both in conſideration of that he owes to himſelf, and what the ſecurity of his *Ambaſſadors* requires of him in his Conjuncture, hath thought it not fit to leave them any longer expoſed to theſe Violences, which doubtleſs will raiſe the juſt Indignation, as well as the Wonder of all *Europe*. Thereupon, His *Majeſty* hath at the ſame time Commanded them to inform the *Swediſh* Miniſters, (who during the whole Treaty, have exerciſed the Mediation of the King their Maſter, by whoſe Great and prudent care, the ſaid Aſſembly was convok'd together) of the Reſolution he hath taken to Re-call them home. The ſaid Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, having hitherto been Eye-witneſſes, of thoſe facil Means and Expedients his moſt Chriſtian *Majeſty* hath from time to time proponnded, for the making the ſaid Negociation to take Effect: as on the contrary, they have ſeen what violent Courſes have been uſed by the Emperour all along, to hinder and ſtop the Progreſs of the ſame, It's but Reaſon they ſhould likewiſe ſee, what juſt and lawfull Grounds do now oblige him to draw a proportionate Revenge upon his Enemies by force of Arms, for the ſlight account made by them of what ought to be moſt Sacred, not among Princes onely, but even among all Men; and by the ſame Force to compel them to ſeek a Peace, they now ſtrive to Hinder, by *Means* ſo Unjuſt and Unwarantable. Would the whole Empire but ſeriouſly reflect on the Emperours Conduct in this Conjuncture, it would evidently appear, that it includes in it ſelf many Siniſter Deſigns, which muſt needs prove fatal to her Libertie, if not timely prevented; there being nothing that diſcovers more the *Injuſtice* of a deſign, than the odiouſneſs of the means practiſed for the effecting of it. Had the Emperour therefore been leſs concerned than he was, in his hindring the Aſſembly at *Collogne*, from producing a Peace, he would never have had recourſe to ſuch Practiſes, as muſt of neceſſity Diſſolve the ſtricteſt Ties and Bonds of all Humane Society: he would not have Violated the Neutrality of a place appointed for the Treaty, by his Inſults on the Perſons of Ambaſſadors of *France*: he would not, I ſay, have ſuffered his Officers and Commanders to ſeize forcibly and violently on Monies appertaining to his moſt Chriſtian *Majeſty*, within the Walls of a Free City; but in a word, would have Acted in this Conjuncture, with more Candor and more Generoſity, and in a War he hath raſhly Declared againſt him; at leaſt, if he had feared leſs then he ſeems to do, the end and conſequences of it.

All the while the Conferences laſted at *Cologne*, and the Mediators indeavored to bring together the moſt Refractory Parties concerned; the Emperour alone, who fearing to ſee himſelf Diſarmed by a Peace, and conſequently made to loſe that power, he had uſurped ſince the year laſt paſt, of Quartering his

*FB 6.F 8442.Eg. 674d.

Troops indifferently, and Conqueror like, in the Territories of all the Princes of the Empire, thereby ſtrengthning his Armies at their Coſts and Charges, by all which proceedings he did openly Contervene and Infringe, under vain and ſpecious Pretences, the Treaties of *Weſtphalia*, and raiſing again a Power, heretofore ſo formidable to the *German* Liberty and which Power could never be reduced to any lawful Limits, but after ſo many long and Bloody-wars. To add no more, the ſaid Emperor dreaded nothing more, than to ſee by the Concluſion of a Peace at *Cologne*, the end of a Quarrel meerly a Stranger to the Concern of the Empire, prove the End and Stop of thoſe Deſigns he hath fram'd againſt the very Empire it ſelf.

All theſe things duely Weighed, his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty doubts not, but that not onely the King of *Sweden* himſelf, whoſe Honor is found ſo highly concerned in this Breach of a Faith, of which he was made Depoſitory as Chief Mediator, but even all other Princes concerned, and ſenſibly toucht with a Deſire of Peace, will not fail to impute to the Emperour, and him onely, the unhappy Diſſolution of an Aſſembly that was both capable and likely, to have procured it to all Chriſtendome.

The whole Empire may one day Remember, that her Tranquillity might eaſily have been reſtored, had the Emperour brought to the Treaty, the ſame Candid and Sincere Diſpoſitions, that his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty hath ſhewed all along, in and ſince the late Treaties of *Weſtphalia*; and that had his Imperial Majeſty conſented to Ingage his Word, not to Aſſiſt at all the Enemies of *France*, his moſt Chriſtian *Majeſty* would freely have Obliged himſelf, to have cauſed his Armies to quite *Germany* at the ſame time, as ſoon as he ſhould have received the ſaid Promiſe from him. However, his *Majeſty* notwithſtanding what hath paſt hitherto, does ſtill retain the ſame Sentiments for Peace he had before: The juſt Reaſons that made him undertake a War, have not, nor do not leſſen or diminiſh any thing of his firſt Inclination, towards the Quiet and Calm of the Empire: And whatever Happy Succeſs he juſtly hopes, God may pleaſe to Crown his Arms with, he ſhall never think them more happy, than when they ſhall reduce his Enemies to deſire a Dureable Peace.

Given at Verſailles, *the* 24 *of* March, 1674.

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